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LASU Certificate Racket: More Heads To Roll

Kunle Awosiyan

It appears the investigation into the certificate racketeering at the Lagos State University will be extended to the Open and Distance Learning And Research Institute, ODLRI, wing of the institution.

A source at the University told Echonews that the racketeering actually started during the running of "outreach centres" days by the institution but that the former Vice Chancellor, Professor Olanrewaju Fagboun stopped the scandal when he came on board about eight years ago.

Before then, the university was operating a distance learning off campus, also known as "Outreach" in some parts of Lagos, including Ojuelegba where it had its school of Mass Communication donated by erstwhile founder of Fototek Industry, Alhaji Adebola Adegunwa.

The university also operated a distance learning centre at Idi-Iroko, Maryland area of Lagos where thousands of candidates enrolled for both undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

The Idi-Iroko centre was headed by one Dr. Olatunji Abanikanda at the time the certificate racketeering actually began as far back as 2000 when the open system was in full gear.



Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello

At the period, many students who graduated from the institution could not get their certificates due to various issues ranging from failure of one core course and lack of proper documentation of their academic records.

It was gathered that the theses of many of the students were not recorded, which became a big issue when a new Vice Chancellor, Professor Fagboun came on board.

The students protested and showed evidence of their payment to the school and a few documents of their academic records, which qualified them to get their certificates.

To protect the image of the institution, Abanikanda was withdrawn by the new Vice Chancellor and a committee was set up to look into his activities at the period he headed the centre.

The outreach programme was later discontinued while many of the lecturers who lacked the required qualifications were laid off by the institution.

Few years after, Abanikanda became a professor but his records were found to be questionable. The institution found out that he did not pass through the rank of a ssociate professorship.

He was demoted. However he approached the court, which mandated the institution to reinstate him last year. Currently Abanikanda, according to Investigation is not in the country but had since been reinstated as professor.

When the protest and pressure by the innocent students became tensed, the senate of the

institution resolved that all the final year students who attended the outreach programme and sat for all the examinations with authentic records be awarded second class lower and be given their certificates.

Those who scaled the hurdle were given their certificates. The institution devoted two weeks to check the records of all students who had scaled the academic hurdles. They asked them to appear physically and produce their documents, including their Ordinary Level certificate, West African School Certificate, their receipts of payments and letter of admission.

However, some of the students who did not sit for the examination, according to a source cut corners by approaching some racketeers at the Open

and Distance Learning and Research Institute to get certificate they never worked for.

Professor Fagboun's sympathy opened the opportunity for some bad elements in the school to have access to the university examination record portal where they were able to input courses and figures for their clients.

Fagboun learnt about the practice. He set up a secret investigators who apprehended the perpetrators.

Before he left, he endured that they were handed over to the law enforcement agencies for investigation and onward prosecution. However Fagboun's exit after the expiration of his administration may have returned the institution to the old practice.

It was gathered that some of the evil doers had seen the present

administration of Professor Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello as a weakling, which they could use to carry out the nefarious activities.

One of them, according to report is the immediate past Dean of Student Affairs, Prof. Tajudeen Olumoko.

His removal was in connection with a news report published on Monday by SaharaReporters on certificate racketeering in the university.

The story revealed that a certificate racketeering syndicate had genuine Lagos State University certificates that anyone interested could purchase for between N2m and N3m, depending on the technicality of the course involved.

Meanwhile, a senior lecturer in the Department of Political Science, Dr Abiodun Fatai-Abatan, has been

LASU Certificate Racket: More Heads To Roll

I appointed as acting DSA.

A source in the university who does not want to be mentioned confirmed the removal. He said, "Yes, it is true, Olumoko has been removed and Abatan has taken over as DSA. This happened yesterday, (Tuesday)."

Meanwhile the Lagos State House of Assembly had invited the Commissioner for Tertiary Education, Mr. Tolani Akibu, the Vice-Chancellor of Lagos State University, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, the Senate of the tertiary institution and other top staff over allegations of extortion and certificate racketeering against the school.

Echonews gathered that the probe



committee set up by the assembly had vowed to be thorough as it threatened that more heads will roll if the allegation of certificate

racketeering comes out to be true. When spelling out its terms of investigation, the Speaker of the assembly who is an

alumnus of the institution stated that he would not allow anything to stain the integrity of his Alma Mater.

He said that though the source of the first story of certificate racketeering by LASU might be suspicious, it would not stop the lawmakers from investigating and fishing out the perpetrators.

He said "I agree that the committee should invite those to be invited to establish facts about the allegation, but we must not because of that destroy our institution's reputation," Obasa, an alumnus, adding that anyone found wanting would be sanctioned.

He submitted that LASU has maintained a high level of integrity over the years, which must be sustained.

A lawmaker, Sa'ad Olumoh urged that the investigation should involve people in the Information and

Communication Technology (ICT) unit of the institution. Also two lawmakers, Desmond Elliot and his colleague, Ladi Ajomale, who said they attended the school also, supported that the allegation be investigated.

In the mean time, the Lagos Directorate of Public Prosecution has begun process of prosecuting the suspects in the allegation of certificate racketeering at the school.

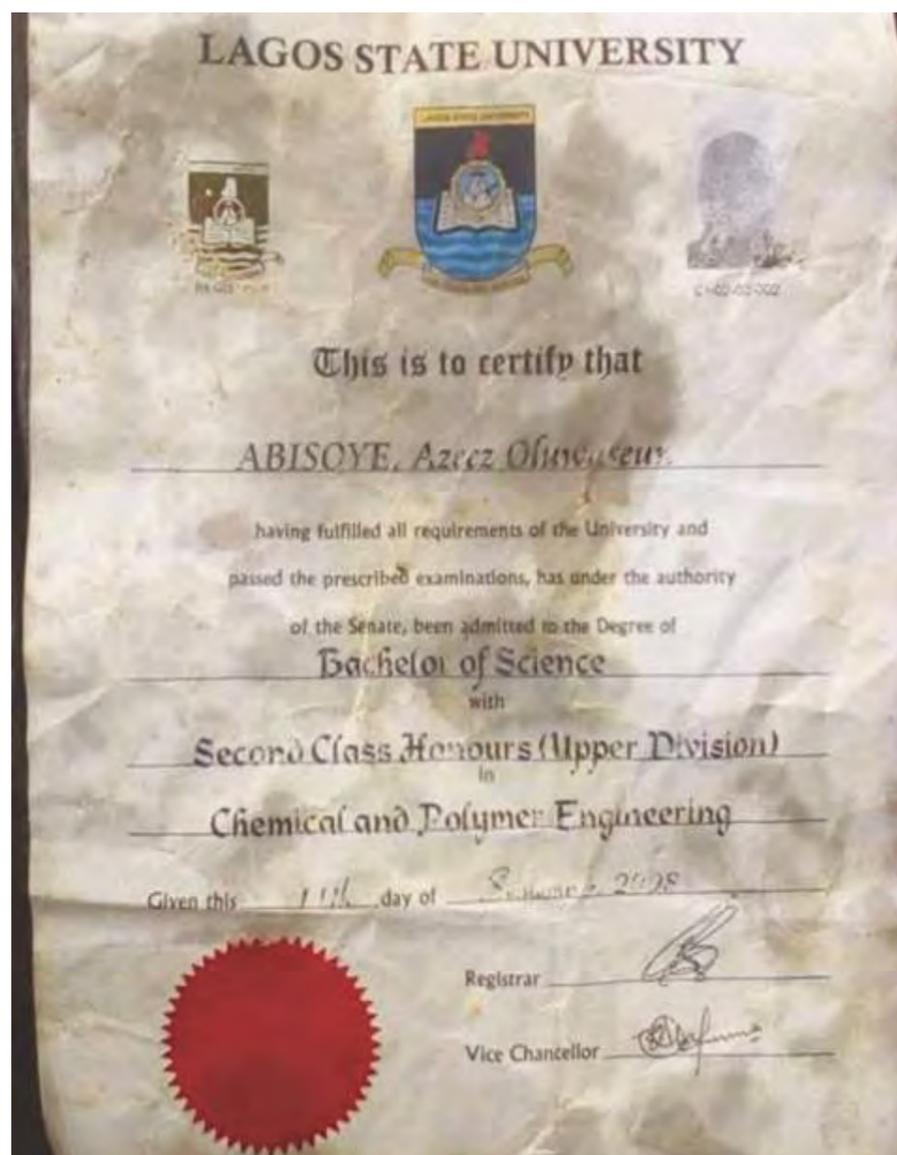
A source at the department told Echonews on Thursday that the department is working with the police who are responsible to carry out the investigation for onward prosecution.

"We are waiting for necessary papers from the police who have also been briefed to investigate the matter. We have received briefs from the Institution itself," the source said.

Confirming the latest development by LSDPP, the Coordinator, Centre for Information and Public Relations, Mrs. Oluwayemisi Thomas Onashile said that varsity management had promptly brought the original allegations to the attention of general law enforcement authorities including the office of the Lagos State Directorate of Public Prosecutions. She said that though the authorities had not yet concluded their investigations, LASU management would not take such matters lightly.

"Its own inquiries into the allegations will be concluded before the end of 2023. Consistently with applicable law, the outcome of the inquiry will be published and appropriate action will be taken.

"There has been no "cover up" and there will be no "cover up," she said.





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Lagos Engages UAE Consulate on Sustainable Projects

The Lagos State Government, through the Office of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), recently engaged in a high-level strategic meeting with the Consul-General of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) consulate in Lagos towards implementing sustainable projects.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on SDGs, Dr. Oreoluwa Finnih, who led the Lagos delegation to the Consulate Office in Victoria Island, explained that the engagement was centred on strengthening bilateral relations between Lagos State and the UAE as potential areas of collaboration and partnership were explored across sustainability projects and cultural exchange.

Finnih noted that the meeting signifies the deepening commitment from both Lagos State



and the UAE to work closely together toward shared goals as the State Government continues to develop policies towards accelerating the delivery of the global agenda across communities. "By joining forces,

pooling resources and sharing knowledge, we can make a real and tangible impact in our community, foster deeper collaboration and inspire positive change", she maintained.

Dr. Oreoluwa affirmed that as the Office

responsible for coordinating efforts to achieve the UN SDG Agenda 2030 within the local Lagos context, the SDGs Office will continue collaborating closely with the private sector, NGOs, academia and development partners to promote

sustainable development initiatives with the greatest impact.

The Consul-General of the UAE Consulate in Lagos, Dr. Abdulla Al-Mandoos, revealed that the UAE is fully committed to supporting the global agenda through sustainable projects and programmes in Lagos State. He pledged the consulate's commitment to strengthen cooperation with the state to achieve the global goals.

"We are excited to further expand our partnership with the Lagos State SDGs Office, and work hand-in-hand on impactful projects that will not only benefit the local Lagos community, but also contribute meaningfully to the global efforts to address urgent challenges", Al-Mandoos said.

According to him, this high-level engagement between the SDGs Office and the UAE Consulate is a promising step toward building a more sustainable, equitable and prosperous future for Lagos State and Nigeria as a whole. It exemplifies the power of international cooperation between developing and developed economies to drive positive change.

Both parties expressed determination to leverage their respective expertise, resources, networks and global influence to identify, develop and execute strategic sustainable development projects. The projects aim to drive economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability for the benefit of Lagosians.

The meeting also had in attendance the top management of both organisations.

LASEPA Conducts Comprehensive Assessment on Zonal Offices



In its efforts to reposition and re-engineer the Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA) for better service delivery, the General Manager of the Agency, Dr. Babatunde Ajayi has embarked on a visit and on-the-spot assessment of the operational facilities at Lekki, Epe, Lagos Mainland and Surulere Zonal Offices of the Agency.

operations and challenges. This hands-on approach underscores his unwavering commitment to ensuring optimal performance and efficiency across all operational zones. At the end of the visit, the General Manager expressed satisfaction with the level of commitment to duty, dedication and hard work exhibited by the officers. He reminded the zones of the critical importance of

maintaining elevated standards in environmental protection and regulatory activities, emphasising the need to safeguard the well-being of Lagos State residents.

"This visit is a clear demonstration of our unyielding commitment to environmental sustainability and the welfare of our communities. It is imperative that we continually assess and enhance our operations to better serve the public", he added

The visit was a continuation of the General Manager's initial assessment of zonal facilities and meeting with officers, following his assumption of office.

Dr. Ajayi had earlier visited the Alimosho zonal office of LASEPA for an on-the-spot assessment and to ascertain the agency's readiness to enforce the Lagos State Environmental Laws.

Surveyor-General Hosts Pupils of St. Peter's Anglican Pry. Sch

The Surveyor-General of Lagos State, Surv. Ayokunnu Adesina has hosted staff and pupils of St. Peter's Anglican Nursery and Primary School, Alausa, on a courtesy visit to his office in appreciation of the support extended to the school.

The pupils also seized the opportunity to show gratitude to the Surveyor-General for his benevolence during the school's inter-house sports on the 1st of November, 2023, at Agidingbi playground, Ikeja.

Welcoming the team, led by the house mistress, Mrs. Esther Ifedayo, the Surveyor-General expressed appreciation for the visit and extolled the cordial relationship that exists with the school, promising to sustain the rapport between both institutions for the benefit of the pupils.

Surv. Adesina said inter-house sports provide a focus for group loyalty as well as teamwork amongst pupils and staff, thus



creating avenues to develop their personal growth and skills and engender a sense of accomplishment. He also commended the pupils of Green House for coming second in their just concluded sports event.

He said: "I want you boys and girls to pay attention to your academics, obey your instructors and don't join bad gangs. I also encourage you to come first in the next inter-house sports".

He also enlightened the

students saying, "A surveyor is a professional who is concerned amongst other things, with the measurement of land and the determination of boundaries".

Responding, the house mistress, Mrs. Ifedayo, thanked the Surveyor-General for the warm reception accorded the team and the consistent support whenever the need arose, just as she appealed for assistance in providing a playground within the school premises.

HPV Vaccine: Govt, UNICEF Sensitise Young Influencers In LGAs



In a bid to erase conspiracy theories and disbelief surrounding the HPV Vaccine while spreading the right information, the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development has collaborated with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to organise a one-day sensitisation for Local Government Areas young influencers.

In her opening remarks at the programme held on Thursday at the Ikeja Youth Centre, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Pharm (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu said the State Government decided to collaborate with UNICEF to equip the young influencers with the requisite knowledge that will help them to disabuse

the minds of those who have been misinformed about the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine.

She said, "The Ministry believes in the strength of the youths and their ability to network. This is what we want to leverage to cascade the right information about the HPV Vaccine which is to mitigate the spread of the Human

Papillomavirus.

This is an intervention aimed at avoiding preventable deaths be it among males or females. We don't know who is the next target of this virus. But taking the vaccine is a sure safeguard against HPV".

"The THEMES Plus Agenda of Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu is to ensure that we have a healthy populace in a smart city. Also, the young influencers participating in this programme are to reach out to those at the grassroots. We cannot afford to leave anyone behind in the process of building a greater Lagos of our dream", Pharm Oke-Osanyintolu added.

The UNICEF, Lagos Field Officer, Mrs. Aderonke Akinola Akinwale, speaking on behalf of the agency stated that the partnership with the Lagos State Government was aimed at ensuring that the young influencers were moved from the

position of ignorance to that of knowledge.

The UNICEF Representative said, "We want the young influencers to help disabuse the minds of those who have been misinformed in our society.

Despite the rumours being peddled about HPV vaccines, our young influencers can leverage the knowledge this sensitisation will give them to positively affect their communities. As HPV Vaccine Champions, the young influencers have been given the tool to work with in terms of knowledge. They are expected to employ their voice via social media and other avenues to make a positive difference".

In her presentation, the Director, Health Education and Promotion Services, District VI, Mrs. Awodunmila Dupe Stella disclosed that the essence of the sensitisation programme was to equip the young influencers with

adequate knowledge about HPV.

"Human Papillomavirus is mostly associated with the males but the females stand a risk because the virus spreads through sexual activity. This sensitisation is an intervention to inculcate the culture of routine vaccination in Lagosians.

Prevention is not only better but cheaper and safer than cure in this regard. The HPV Vaccine itself is safe, effective and free in Lagos State today. The vaccine will help the females to guard against the virus which causes cancer or Human Papillomavirus", Mrs Awodunmila stated.

On his part, the Director, Youth Department, MYSD, Mr. Abdullateef Saka, said the sensitisation was to bridge the yawning gap between ignorance and knowledge by giving the right information to the young influencers, adding that an effective feedback mechanism would be put in place to monitor performance and progress in the various communities.

Sanwo-Olu's Theme Plus: Permanent Secretary Tells Staff To Brace Up



(Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Establishments and Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun with commissioner)

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Establishments and Training, Mrs. Olubusola Abidakun, has advised the staff of the ministry to brace up for work to achieve the mandate of the ministry. She made this remark during a reception organised by the workforce to formally welcome her to the ministry.

She encouraged officers to work smart and have a transformational attitude rather than a transactional attitude, stating that she could not stand Officers with a transactional attitude.

Mrs. Abidakun harped on the need to work

together as a team, saying "There should be synergy and collaboration amongst the staff and everybody must do his or her best. I would not hesitate to release those who are not ready to work".

She went down memory lane when she revealed that she started her career in the State Civil Service at the Ministry of Establishments and Training. "It is quite nostalgic for me because I started my career in this ministry and it brings fond memories of how we worked and those who inspired us then", she said.

Whilst admonishing Officers to do their best and excel in whatever they do, the Permanent Secretary believed that ethos and ethics must be upheld at all times.

In his welcome address, the Honourable Commissioner for Establishments and Training, Mr. Afolabi Ayantayo, warmly welcomed the new Permanent Secretary and prayed for her success, stressing that he believed that the ministry would make more progress during her tenure.

He also expressed appreciation to Mr. Governor and the Head of Service for her

OTCI Team Commends Randle Hospital For Quality Service

The management team of Randle General Hospital has been commended for improvements recorded by the hospital under the present Medical Director, Dr. Olumide Sojinrin, in the area of prompt medical care and adherence to the dictates of the Service Charter document guiding the operations of the hospital.

An assessment team from both the Office of Transformation, Creativity and Innovation (OTCI) and the Ministry of Health gave the commendation on Thursday after carrying out a monitoring and evaluation exercise within the hospital.

The team led by the Director of Branding, One-stop & Service Charter (BOS) Department, OTCI, Mr. Olalekan Rufai, observed that the Hospital has recorded greater achievements when compared to what was in place during the last assessment visit by OTCI.

According to him, the exercise was aimed at assessing the level of compliance of the Hospital with the tenets of the Service Charter and declarations in the



Hospital's handbook.

He attributed the continuous improvement in healthcare delivery at the hospital to the cooperation received by the management team of the facility including the Service Charter Champions and Service Delivery Officers from its Medical Director.

Rufai, who led other principal officers of OTCI and the Ministry of Health to the Hospital, specifically commended the 'barcode' initiative developed by Randle General Hospital to make it easy for clients to give their feedback. The Team, however, advised that the feedback obtained from the barcode initiative should be collated daily and analysed for effectiveness.

All members of the OTCI team applauded the Hospital Management and advised them to keep up the good job while maintaining the

improvements already and also seeking better ways to deliver on their mandates.

Other team members of OTCI and the Ministry of Health in attendance during the assessment visit are Miss Avoseh Funke, Mr. Agboola Olalekan, Mr. Fasasi Abdullahi Hakeem and Mrs. Joan Oluyemi from Lagos State Ministry of Health.

Earlier, the joint team were welcomed and hosted at a pre-assessment meeting by the Head of the Dental Centre, Randle General Hospital, Dr. Omolara Agbaje, who promised that the hospital would seek better ways of improving service delivery for the benefit of the patients.

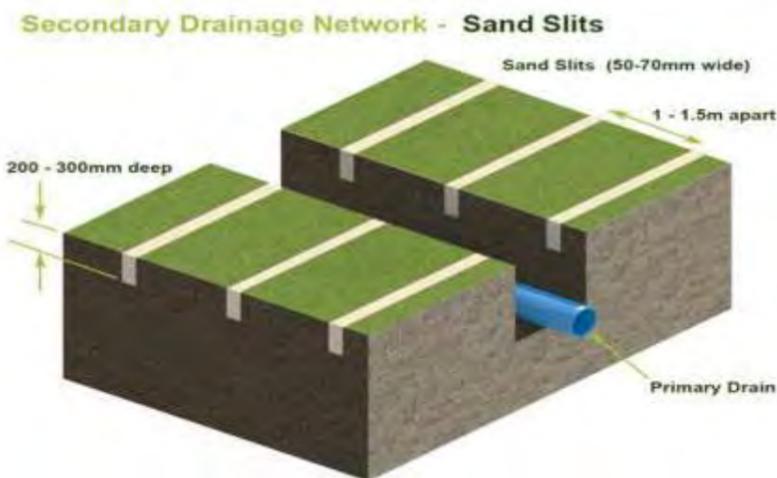
During the tour of the hospital facility, the team assessed relevant documents, systems and operations of the different departments and made their observations known to the management for more improvements.

Secondary Drainage: Lagos Invites Experts To Develop Masterplan

The Lagos State Government has invited experts in the drainage sector for inputs in the development of a Secondary Drainage Masterplan for selected Local Governments as part of its efforts to reduce flooding issues in the State.

Addressing participants during the stakeholders' workshop on Lagos State Secondary Drainage masterplan (Priority one) held at Adeyemi-Bero Auditorium, Secretariat, Alausa. the Commissioner for the Environment and Water Resources, Mr. Tokunbo Wahab said the State is keen to develop an implementation strategy to reduce flooding.

Wahab, who had in his company the Special Adviser on Environment, Mr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu; Chairman, House Committee on Environment, Hon Lanre Afinni; Permanent Secretaries, Office of Drainage Services, Engr. Lekan Shodeinde and Environmental Services, Gaji



Omobolaji Tajudeen, emphasised that the Government and residents must collectively ensure that flood risks are managed in a sustainable, equitable and effective manner.

He reiterated that the gathering is a testament to the commitment of the present administration to always give residents input into government plans, stressing that due cognisance will be taken of all the points raised.

The Commissioner recalled that the first case of major flooding

was recorded in year 2012/2013 and the Government at that time was frontal in its approach, adding that there have been improvements in the drainage system over the years.

“We will not rest on our oars, we shall continue to engage in all year-round cleaning and infrastructural development to ensure that Lagos is free of flooding”, he said.

He stated that the world was experiencing global warming which is bringing about situations where countries with the best infrastructure have in recent times been experiencing flooding.

While addressing

participants, the Special Adviser on Environment, Mr. Olakunle Rotimi-Akodu stated that the Ministry has started the journey to find a lasting solution to the menace of flooding as such everyone's opinion is welcomed.

He stated that the meeting would create avenues on how better synergy can be created between the State and Local Governments, ministerial departments and communities.

“If anyone in your area builds on drainages, right of way or setback, please get a video and send it to the Ministry so that the culprit can be prosecuted; I

promise that such person will be compensated and the culprit sanctioned”, he said.

He said the Ministry appreciates the contribution of everyone, adding that their inputs would be reflected before the next stakeholders' engagement.

The Permanent Secretary, Office of Drainage Services, Engr. Olalekan Shodeinde noted that the first master plan was conceived in the 70s and this became the guide for interventions in the storm water management sector, adding that water, if not managed properly, could become a menace.

He said the first master plan gave birth to another master plan in the year 2015 majorly for primary channels which are naturally existing canals that are natural waterways to channel water into the lagoon, stressing that there is a need to have a master plan for the secondary collector drains.

He highlighted that the Priority One

project will cover Ikorodu, Kosofe, Eti-Osa, Shomolu and Ibeju Lekki which are believed to be the most flood-prone Local Government Areas while the Priority Two projects will cover Ajeromi, Ifelodun, Ojo, Amuwo Odofin and Alimosho Local Government.

In his presentation, the Lead Consultant from Pheman Peniel Consultant Ltd, Dr. Emmanuel Adeyemo said that the essence of the intervention is to reduce flooding and to manage flood risk sustainably.

He said the intervention would also help the Office of Drainage Services to manage the future of drainage developmental and flood mitigation activities.

He reiterated that the masterplan is a 40-year developmental plan from 2025 to 2065 where problematic areas have been identified, especially the low-lying area conditions as well as alleviating the negative impact of flooding to minimise health issues.

Participants at the workshop include Former Permanent Secretaries, Chairmen of Local Government, Experts in the Built and Engineering sector as well as other Stakeholders in the Environment.

LASG To Hold Fourth Lagos Real Estate Marketplace Conference



(Special Adviser to the Governor on Housing, Barr. Barakat Odunuga-Bakare)

In line with the T.H.E.M.E.S Plus Agenda of the present administration and in a bid to bring together relevant stakeholders in the Real Estate Sector, the Lagos State Real Estate Regulatory Authority (LASRERA), is set to hold the fourth

Estate Marketplace Conference & Exhibition initiated in 2020.

The Special Adviser to the Governor on Housing, Barr. Barakat Odunuga-Bakare, who disclosed this on Monday at Alausa said that the event will host real estate Stakeholders in

the Built Sector and will present a one-of-a-kind opportunity for investors. According to her, key industry players and relevant government Agencies will also leverage the event to facilitate public-private partnerships, investment opportunities, Policy Developments and provide solutions to issues peculiar to the Industry through the Joint Venture initiatives scheme of the State Government.

“The Lagos State Housing Partnerships initiatives, if tapped into by individuals/organisations operating in the Real Estate Sector, will drive macro-economic growths and development amongst other functions within the built industry value chain”.

Odunuga-Bakare stated. She informed that the previous editions of the event had addressed

some challenges facing the sector through proper and robust panel discussion sessions by experienced industry players.

She averred that the Fourth Edition of the Lagos Real Estate Marketplace Conference and Exhibitions will be held on Wednesday 13th and Thursday 14th, December, 2023 at the Expo Hall, Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos with the theme: “REAL ESTATE REGULATION: A PANACEA FOR DISASTER MITIGATION AND RECOVERY IN THE BUILT INDUSTRY”.

Disclosing that the two-day event will have Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu as the Chief Host and the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat as the co-host, the Special Adviser stated that the annual

conference and exhibitions will be attended by Professional Bodies in the built sector, Real Estate Value Chain Enterprises ranging from Tourism, Horticulture, Financial Institutions, Interior Decorators, Construction Companies, Real Estate Agencies, Interlocking Companies, Cement companies, Sanitary Wares, POP Construction companies, Tiles industries, Environmentalists, Resident Associations, Proptech companies with relevant Government Agencies of the State.

Odunuga-Bakare said that the panel session segment of the event will be chaired by seasoned representatives drawn from the private and public sectors, who

will propose suitable solutions to the challenges in the built Sector to attract Investors' confidence towards sustainable investments.

“This is an opportunity for corporate organisations, individuals, and state government agencies to showcase their brands, products, services, and network at exhibition stands at this year's event”, she advised.

The Special Adviser, therefore, urged interested participants to register on <https://4thlagrealconference.eventbrite.com>, just as she also encouraged corporate organisations and individuals to use the opportunity to showcase their goods and services at the exhibition stands.

For more information on the conference, the following persona can be contacted: Omotosho: 0803 309 6653, Oluchi: 0907 764 6267 or Bode: 0904 000 0444.

Lagos Assembly Moves To Criminalise Street Begging

Members of the Lagos State House of Assembly on Tuesday discussed the idea of a law to curb street begging across the State. The law, if it comes into existence, would also penalise encouragement of street begging by residents. In this way, it would be an offence to give money to a street beggar.

Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Mudashiru Obasa, who described street begging as a menace taking over the state, agreed with the lawmakers at plenary that criminal elements have taken over the streets disguised as beggars. Reacting to the motion brought by Hon. Abiodun Orekoya and some of his colleagues, Dr. Obasa noted how previous administrations in the state made efforts to curb street begging, but that the challenge had not abated.

Obasa emphasised the need for a law that would criminalise street begging and also penalise who give money to beggars on the roads.

See also Nnamdi Kanu Denies Being Greater Than Jesus Christ

“When we address the source, then we can curb it. When you go on the road, you find children within the ages of five and six begging. It means there are established groups of people benefitting from this. They warehouse and provide for them.

“Beyond the child rights law, we should come up with another law that speaks to begging and giving. We must come up with genuine law and institutions that handle begging.

The Speaker said the proposed law should aim to establish a centre where individuals who wish to give alms can do so, while the centre would ensure that the alms reach those



in need.

“The law will create a fund to be managed by people with integrity so that if you are in need, you would go there,” he said.

See also Why Lagos Lawmakers Approved Sanwo-Olu's Request For

N85bn Bond

He said while this would help people fulfil their religious beliefs about alms giving, it would also help curb street begging, reduce crime on the road and promote greater responsibility among residents.

The Speaker said the

smart city goal of the state cannot be achieved when beggars adorn the roads, inhibiting free movement and engaging in crime which include drug peddling and stealing from motorists. He questioned how children as young as five or six manage to travel

from other states to Lagos, suggesting that some individuals may be sponsoring and accommodating them.

Calling for a holistic approach to end the challenge, the Speaker said it was better to tackle it from the source which include discouraging giving directly to the beggars on the road.

Obasa also urged local government chairmen to come up with ideas to manage street trading rather than thinking of outrightly chasing traders off the streets.

“Street trading happens across the world. It is for our council chairmen to come up with ideas to better manage the activities of traders in their domains.

“How do you build a shop and put it at N30 million? What will the traders be selling there?

If you remove them all, where do you also want them to go?” He asked.

Sanwo-Olu Calls For Inclusion of More African Countries Into AUMA



The Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu has extended a warm welcome to delegates and dignitaries at the Second General Assembly of the African Association of Urban

Mobility Authorities (AUMA) in Victoria Island, Lagos.

The two-day event marks a significant step towards enhancing urban transport governance in Africa's rapidly growing metropolitan areas.

In his keynote address, Governor Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Lagos State Commissioner for Transportation, Mr. Oluwaseun Osiyemi, praised AUMA for its commitment to strengthening urban

transport governance, aligning with Lagos State's THEMES Plus development agenda. He emphasised the importance of AUMA in sharing experiences and lessons on urban mobility and encouraged discussions on enhancing technical capacity, resource sharing, addressing climate change, and deploying technology to protect revenue.

The Governor expressed optimism that the General Assembly would lead to joint positions and recommendations to improve transit operations across African cities. He also called for the inclusion of more African countries within AUMA to expand its benefits

to different cities. The Managing Director of Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA), Engr. Abimbola Akinajo, who was also present at the event, stated that the gathering creates an opportunity to come together to address the distinctive and intricate urban mobility issues that African cities are experiencing.

Also speaking, the President of AUMA Executive Committee and Director-General of the Executive Council of Urban Transport of Dakar (CETUD), Dr. Thierno Birahim, noted that AUMA's aim at fostering innovations, collaboration and policy advancement in

urban mobility across Africa is being achieved through the gathering.

The Second General Assembly and Workshop of AUMA, is co-organised by the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA), in collaboration with the Africa Transport Policy Programme (SSATP), convenes authorities from Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Tanzania, Mozambique, Morocco, Ethiopia, and Cameroon.

The association pledged to continue to bring together Mobility Authorities from various African countries to exchange knowledge and experiences relating to urban transportation planning, coordination, regulation, management and financing.

Lagos Govt Begins 2023 Fire Evacuation Drill Across MDAs

As a proactive step to enhance the faculty of government's personnel towards ensuring the safety of lives and facilities in the event of a fire emergency, the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service has commenced the year 2023 Evacuation Drill across the state's Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

Speaking at a press briefing held on Monday at the Office's Headquarters in Alausa Ikeja, the Commissioner for Special Duties and Intergovernmental Relations, Hon. Olugbenga Oyerinde explained that the exercise themed: "Mitigating Fire Risk through Fire Prevention", is designed to enlighten and raise awareness among the Lagos State Government workforce about fire prevention and protection.

The Commissioner while highlighting the significance of the initiative stated that the important exercise is aimed at practising evacuation procedures, testing fire safety equipment and promoting awareness of fire safety measures among employees.

"People's immediate actions in the event of a fire outbreak and other related emergencies are very important in avoiding casualties",



she maintained.

Hon. Olugbenga emphasised that the occasion will serve as a platform for an aggressive campaign against attacks on firefighters and false alarms, bridging the gap between firefighters and the public which according to him is crucial for safeguarding significant government investments in public order and safety.

In her remark, the Director of the Agency, Mrs. Margaret Adeseye stated that the fire prevention/evacuation drill as an annual programme extends beyond the MDAs, stressing that it is also a grassroots campaign designed to expand the fire safety net for the public across local governments, major

markets, fuel depots/tanker terminals, sawmills, major motor parks, and public assemblies including religious centres and shopping malls.

Pointing out that the exercise provides opportunities for participants to gain insights into various types of basic firefighting equipment and methods for handling fire extinguishers, the Director stated that they will also learn how to assess the As a proactive step to enhance the faculty of government's personnel towards ensuring the safety of lives and facilities in the event of a fire emergency, the Lagos State Fire and Rescue Service has commenced the year 2023 Evacuation Drill across the state's Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs).

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We Will Explore EXPOS For MSMES Benefits— Sanwo-Olu

Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu has expressed the desire of his administration to explore the potential of expos and exhibitions for the benefit of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the State.

The Governor gave the commitment at the China Commodity Expo – Nigeria 2023, held in

Lago. Sanwo-Olu, represented by Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, stated that his administration is particularly conscious of how the bilateral relations between Nigeria and China can be further cascaded to benefit MSMEs in the State.

He said: "The products, technologies, and innovations showcased at this Expo present huge opportunities for our nation to access and adapt to our production processes. They serve as a beacon for entrepreneurs, they are potential drivers of massive production of goods and signal the endless possibilities of trade and investment windows when parties are committed to it. We



(Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade & Investment, Mrs. Folashade Ambrose-Medebem with other dignitaries)

are determined to support the MSMEs in leveraging technology to boost the production and packaging of their products and services to align with international standards".

Speaking further, the Governor noted that his administration has executed various initiatives aimed at providing a conducive environment for MSMEs to thrive.

"The Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) is providing MSMEs with the finance required to acquire critical inputs such as machines. The State is also ramping up efforts to complete the construction of 44 Factory Units-Imota Light Industrial Park, which is about 90 percent completed. The Park will provide additional workspaces for MSMEs and small-

scale industrialists in the State along with other interventions.

Consul General, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Lagos, Yan Yuqing called for the need to push Nigeria – China cooperation to new heights. "I believe with the joint efforts of the Chinese and Nigerian governments and business communities, the Commodities Expo will further promote the exchanges and cooperation between enterprises from the two countries", he said.

The President, Ogun State Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture, Engr. Mike Akingbade stated that the China Commodities Expo – Nigeria is an opportunity to promote trade collaboration, which would open grounds for a greater economic relationship between the two countries.

Lagos Receives Healthcare Equity, Access Award



Lagos State Government has been recognised for its unwavering dedication to Healthcare Equity and Access at the just concluded Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria (PSHAN) Awards in Lagos.

The Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria (PSHAN) is a country-owned coalition led by the private sector, aiming to enhance health outcomes in Nigeria by combining private sector resources.

The award which is in

recognition of the exceptional efforts and achievements dedicated to advancing healthcare and improving health outcomes in Nigeria was received on behalf of the State Government by the Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Health District III, Dr. (Mrs.) Monsurat Adeleke.

Receiving the award, Adeleke said that it was gratifying that the Lagos State Government surpassed 6,000 nominees to clinch the prestigious award of the Private Sector

Health Alliance of Nigeria (PSHAN).

According to her, the honour underscored the THEMES Plus Agenda's pursuit of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration to attain universal health coverage and enhance access to high-quality, efficient healthcare services for the State's growing population.

She dedicated the award to the State Governor, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, and the entire health family in the State for the giant and relentless efforts in enhancing healthcare and health results in Lagos through unfettered access to qualitative healthcare without geographical, financial, cultural or political barriers.

It should be noted that the formation of the PSHAN Awards was a collaborative effort led by Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Bill Gates, Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate, Mr. Jim Ovia, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, Mrs. Sola David-Borha, and other prominent business leaders who shared a common goal of addressing Nigeria's healthcare challenges.

Residents Laud Badagry LG Boss on Road Infrastructure

By Saheed Afolabi

The residents of Olorunda LCDA have heaped praises on their council chairman, Samson

Folorunsho for his intervention in renovating roads across the wards. The council chairman renovated the

Anglican primary school pitch as sport lovers complained about the bad state of the pitch which has been renovated. Also at Mosafejo

junction, the chairman renovated it due to his massive traffic of people and motorists in the area.

A Facebook user named,

Adewuyi Abiola said Onilude is working and God bless the LCDA.

Ilori Funke was impressed with the council's boss intervention in

repairing the roads. Folorunsho has been embarking on road interventions across the LG and he has personally been monitoring it himself.

Badagry LG Boss Tasks Customs On Residents' Safety

By Saheed Afolabi

Badagry Local Government (LG) chairman, Olusegun Onilude has charged the newly appointed comptroller of customs Seme Command, Timi Bomodi to prioritize the safety of the residents when officers of his command discharge their duties. Onilude made it known to the new custom boss at Seme Border during his visit to the council secretariat. The council boss said his administration have a cordial and robust relationship with the Nigeria Customs and commended the officers for doing a great job. He however plead with Bomodi to address the numerous checkpoints on the Badagry road because it affects movement of people within the axis of the border.



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"My administration has enjoyed a robust and cordial working relationship with men of the Nigerian customs. "A relationship I assure you, we will continue

to have. I also commend your men for the yeoman's job they are doing but then I want you to do something about the numerous checkpoints on our road. "That alone is affecting

the ease of trade and movement of people within this corridor. I also want to bring to your attention the modus operandi of your men when they have

Intel about smuggled goods in residential areas. Lives and properties must not be endangered while they're discharging their duties. "Perhaps we can

embark on organizing an enlightenment forum with stakeholders so that we can collectively enlighten our people on some grey areas of your operation."

Alara Envisions Rapid Development in Epe Division

By Mohammed Adekola

In an inspiring showcase of Yoruba cultural values and history, Michael Otedola College of Primary Education (MOCPED) recently hosted a riveting stage production, "Efunsetan Aniwura," aimed at rekindling the flame of cultural preservation and professionalism.

Mr. Bakre Olatunji Olatunde, affectionately known as Baba Yoruba and a lecturer in the Yoruba department, lauded the students' efforts, emphasizing the play's relevant moral message. The story unfolds the consequences of wielding power without



humility and the repercussions of trampling on the rights of others. Baba Yoruba

stressed the educational value of the production, aligning with the cherished Yoruba virtues

of Omoluabi.

"As Yorubas, we have our Omoluabi virtues; arrogance is not a

virtue. Slaves are not meant to be abused and trampled upon because they are humans as well. Whatever power one has must be put to use in the best possible ways, as it is part of the Omoluabi ethos," he said.

Dr. Francis Yede from the Department of English echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the potency of stage productions in preserving history and morality. Drawing inspiration from legends like Chief Hubert Ogunde and Duro Ladipo, Dr. Yede emphasized the foundational importance of stage acting in developing actors' proficiency. He

underscored the significance of consistency and dedication for aspiring actors, encouraging them to sow the seeds of professionalism.

"There are some activities you engage in, and whenever you grow in them, your professionalism and attitude grow with our consistency. You have to sow before you reap, so they should be ready to sow, and they will reap before long", he said.

Representatives from the school management, Dr. A. Adesanya and Mrs. Abimbola Olaleye lauded the production for its cultural richness and educational impact.

MOCPED Shines Light on Yoruba Value

By Mohammed Adekola



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Mr. Jamal Apena, the course handler,

alongside Mr. Yusuf Shidi and Mr. Bayo Okunlola expressed pride in the students' performance, citing their dedication to the craft. Parents in attendance commended the college for nurturing talent and instilling cultural values through such impactful productions.

"Efunsetan Aniwura" serves as a profound exploration of Yoruba history, bringing to life the tale of an influential woman in the 18th-century Oyo Empire. Written by Professor Akinwunmi Isola, the play masterfully weaves together themes of power dynamics, gender roles, and the intricate nuances of human nature within the historical backdrop of the Oyo Empire.

As MOCPED continues to leverage the stage as a powerful medium for cultural preservation, "Efunsetan Aniwura" stands as a beacon, illuminating the richness of Yoruba heritage for generations to come.

Lagos State Education Commissioner Inaugurates LASUSTECH SUG Building

By Nurudeen Adebayo

At a momentous event on the Ikorodu campus of Lagos State University of Science and Technology (LASUSTECH), Honourable Tolani A. Sule, the Commissioner for Tertiary Education, inaugurated the remodelled and ultramodern Student's Union Government (SUG) building.

Accompanied by Mr. Waheed Kasali, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Hon. Tolani underscored the vital role of students in the university's existence during his opening remarks.

He emphasized that structures like the SUG building were integral to completing the university, providing a necessary avenue for the proper coordination and administration of student union activities.

Speaking further, Hon. Tolani highlighted the state government's commitment to its "THEME" agenda, investing significantly in the remodeling of the structure.

The revamped building



now boasts incorporated games and sports facilities, designed for students' recreation, relaxation, bonding, and engagement in productive and social activities—a holistic complement to their academic pursuits.

Expressing his gratitude, Hon. Tolani acknowledged Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu for making the ambitious project

a reality. He also extended congratulations to the students on their new edifice, accompanied by a plea to both the university management and students to embrace a maintenance culture, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the state-of-the-art building.

In his welcome address, Prof. Olumuyiwa Odusanya, the Vice Chancellor of LASUSTECH, thanked

the commissioner for gracing the occasion and Governor Sanwo-Olu for his unwavering support.

Assuring that the university would put the facility to optimal use, Prof. Odusanya reiterated the institution's commitment to being a university of excellence and a driving force in science and technological advancements.

Adding his voice to the chorus of gratitude, SUG President Comrade Surakat Muftaudeen declared the completion and commissioning of the SUG arcade as a testament to the state government's dedication to the educational development of its citizens.

He emphasized the transformative impact of the facility, not only

improving the university's physical infrastructure but also enhancing students' development across various capacities.

Comrade Muftaudeen expressed profound gratitude to the state government and the university management on behalf of the entire student body, marking this occasion as a milestone in the ongoing journey of educational progress at LASUSTECH.

Ikorodu Residents Celebrate Fatai-Abatan's Appointment as LASU Acting Dean

By Nurudeen Adebayo

Ikorodu Division is a buzz with celebration following the recent appointment of Dr. Abiodun Fatai-Abatan, a senior lecturer in the Political Department at Lagos State University (LASU), as the Acting Dean of Students' Affairs.

Dr. Fatai-Abatan assumed the role with immediate effect on Tuesday, drawing positive reactions from the local community. Hameed Olalekan Aroyewun, a former aspirant for the Ikorodu Constituency II seat in the Lagos State House of Assembly, extended

congratulations and heartfelt prayers for wisdom and success in the new role.

Elder Olu Omoniyi, a political leader in Ikorodu North LCDA, hailed the appointment as well-deserved, joining others in rejoicing with Dr. Fatai-Abatan on his elevation. Adelabu Seyi, President of the Knight Club of Ikorodu, expressed confidence in the new Dean's capabilities and wished him continued success in his endeavours.

The Coordinator of the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) in Ikorodu West LCDA,



Comrade Abubakri Asoro, described Dr. Abatan as an inspiration to the youths. Asoro highlighted the significance of the appointment, emphasizing Dr. Abatan's positive impact on the youth in and around Ikorodu West.

"It's another one for us in Ikorodu West, as we celebrate our Egbon, Dr. Abiodun Fatai-Abatan, on his appointment as Acting Dean of Students' Affairs, LASU," remarked Comrade Abubakri Asoro. "This appointment is a round peg in a round hole."

The community expresses confidence that Dr. Fatai-Abatan's leadership will bring greater achievements to the department, and they look forward to witnessing continued success under his guidance.

Salawu To Establish Taskforce On Environmental Sanitation

By Saheed Afolabi



(R-L; The chairman of Somolu LG, Abdulhamed Salawu with other religious leaders at the lecture event)

The chairman of Somolu Local Government (LG), Abdulhamed Salawu has tasked the religion institutions to join hands with the government to fight the menace of drug abuse in our society. The council chairman was a guest at the Jam'iyyat Fadlil Qur'an of Nigeria (JAFAQ) public lecture which centred on 'The Menace of Drug Abuse In Our Society.'

The event held at Somolu central mosque had loads of religious, community and political leaders in attendance. Speaking to the Press, the council chairman urged parents to be careful and watchful with their wards as drug abuse is a social menace destroying youth globally. He added that Sheikh Muhydeen Bello is an Islamic scholar known internationally for his blunt and sincere

lecture of morals which repairs adults and prepare the youth for a better future. However, Salawu tasks communities and religious organisations to cooperate with government agencies like Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) and the Nigeria Immigration Service in combating the menace of drug abuse in the Nigerian society, especially at the grassroots.

Salawu Applauds Residents, CDA for Cooperation

By Saheed Afolabi



(The chairman of Somolu LG, Abdulhamed Salawu witnessing the completion of the road in Ovat CDA)

As part of his efforts and continued commitment to community development in his area, the chairman of Somolu Local Government, Abdulhamed Salawu has applauded the cooperative gestures of the residents, especially the OVAT CDA.

According to Salawu, the residents and road users of Onafowokan, Vincent, Asubiaro and Tola Oduntan (OVAT) have been patiently cooperative for over a few months, the area has been witnessing the redevelopment of roads and the ongoing construction of the New Somolu Local Government administrative complex.

The council boss stated it while handing over the completed Vincent Street. The Vincent

Street, which now links Tola Oduntan to Onafowokan streets, creates an easier access to the Abule Oja axis of the Yaba LCDA.

In his response, on behalf of his Community Development Association (CDA), Engr. Seyi Oke said the interlocked at Vincent Street is a huge palliative to people within his community and Somolu at large.

Supervisor for Works and Infrastructure, Kabir Raji emphasized that the Interlock stones used for the road are of high standard and specially made for heavy duty roads.

On his part, Special Adviser on Works and Infrastructure to the Council Chairman, Wasiu Azeez said the pace of professionalism by the workers is exemplary as Salawu led administration of Somolu Local Government has done this to the glory of God and benefits to humanity.

Mushin LG Bids For Ownership Of Agro Food Processing Hub

By Saheed Afolabi



Mushin Local Government (LG) is bidding to take over the agro food processing hub been constructed by the Lagos State Government in the community. In preparation for the commissioning of the

Agro food processing hub in Idi Oro, Mushin LG, the commissioner for Agriculture and Cooperative in Lagos State, Abisola Olusanya, conducted an inspection tour of the newly completed

edifice, to put measures in place for the proposed food security initiative of the government for the people of Lagos. The commissioner emphasized on the need to put some

mechanisms in place before and after the commissioning which is slated to hold by the end of the month.

She reiterated the need to provide facilities like security, environmental management, hygiene control and other structures that will position the agro hub among other markets across the globe.

The vision towards food security which involves food production, food processing and food distribution at reasonable and affordable rates, for perishable items, can only be achieved with cooperation among the three tiers of government. The hub will also serve as a

commercial nerve centre for perishable food items across the state.

Responding to the commissioner on behalf of the chairman, Mushin LG vice chairman, Tunbosun Aruwe commended the efforts of Lagos state governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, for his food security initiative and plans towards positioning Lagos as a centre for food and agricultural production. He solicited for a complete handover of the agro food hub, to Mushin Local Government, for effective management. While giving the vote of thanks, Comrade Sogo Osikoya (Council

Manager), assured the commissioner and her team, Mr Bamigboye's vision towards harmonizing resources to deliver the dividends of good governance to the people of Mushin. He informed the visitors of the Chairman's plan to give some state roads special attention by rehabilitating the bad portions in order to cushion the effect on road users.

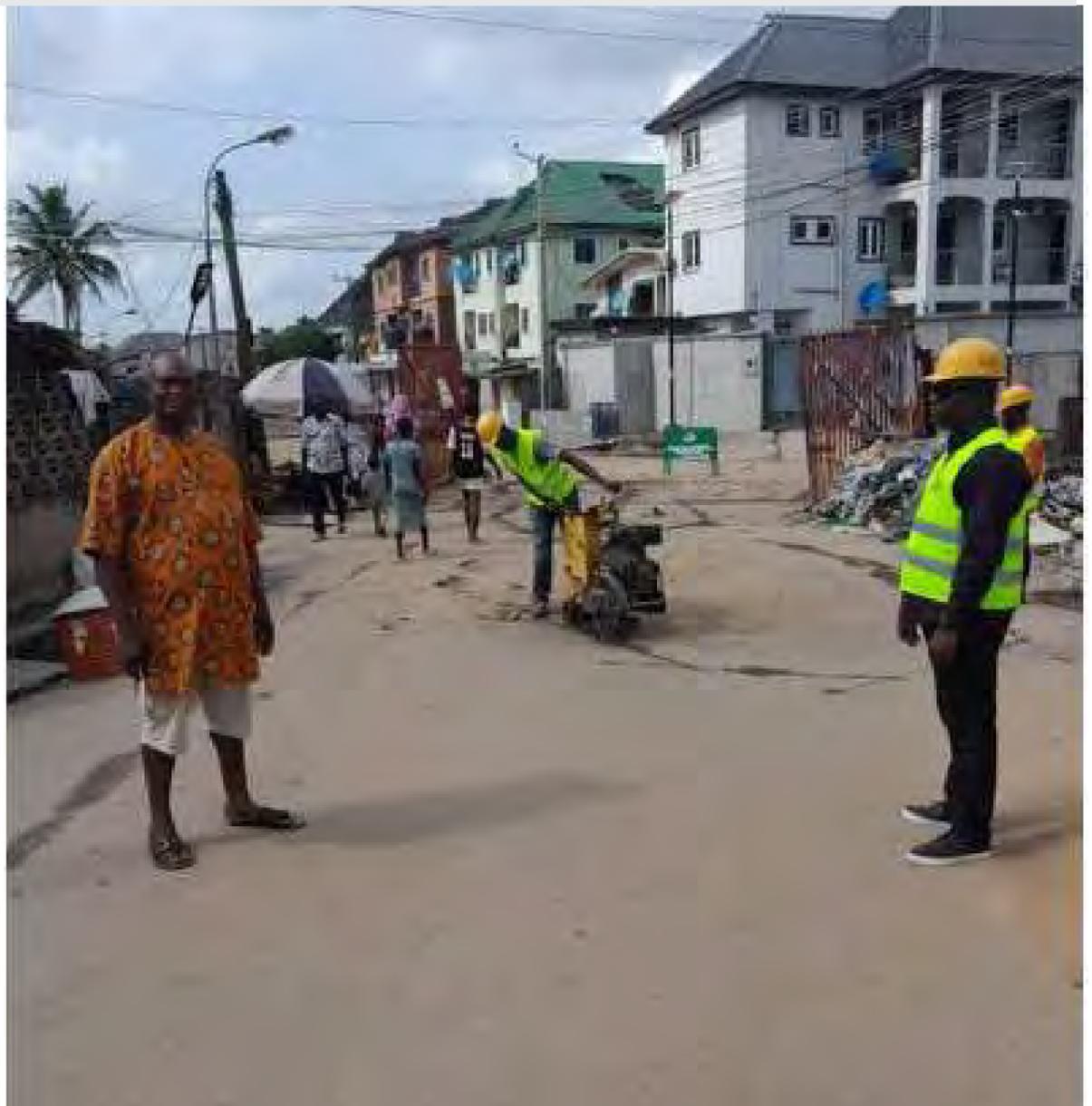
The commissioner appealed to the council authority to meet with stakeholders at the Idi Oro market, to facilitate a successful transition to a modernized and global standard agro food processing centre with innovative and localized technology.

Bamigboye Repairs Roads in Mushin

By Saheed Afolabi

The chairman of Mushin Local Government (LG), Emmanuel Bamigboye has repaired some roads filled with potholes in the community. The Road Maintenance Team (RMT) embarked on the different roads in the LG to fill the potholes in order to avoid accident of motorists. Iyalla street, Isolo road, Daleko police station, Fatai Atere road and Alafia street were renovated following the huge complaints that followed the massive potholes in the areas. The RMT said, repair of roads is a continuous exercise which aims at

improving the state of Mushin roads. They urged motorists and residents to cooperate with the workers trying to bring relief to the LG roads and persuade them to provide information on any road that needs urgent attention. "The roads repair is a continuous exercise which is targeted at making all the roads in Mushin motorable. "We hereby call on members of the community and road users to cooperate with them and if there's anyone with information about any road in Mushin that needs urgent attention should contact the LG."



Agbado Oke-odo Council Boss Provides Ambulance To Medical Team

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Agbado Oke-odo, Mr. David Famuyiwa has presented an ambulance to medical team of the Local Council Development Area. The chairman said the ambulance availability strengthens the already strong accessibility to high-quality medical care. He urged the medical officers to make the

best use of the bus for the good of the community and reassured them of his administration's dedication to building more medical facilities

to accomplish community health coverage. Present at the handover were the Secretary to the Local Government,

Chief Akinwumi James Odeyemi, the Supervisor for Health, Hon. Sesan Oladipupo, Medical Officer of Health, Dr. (Mrs) Olubunmi Aiyegbusi.

Famuyiwa Sues For Peace As Fish Sellers Protest

Kehinde Adeleye



The Chairman of Agbado Oke-odo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) has sued for calmness among protesting fish sellers and market operators in the LCDA who besieged the Council Secretariat to express dissatisfaction in hike in price of fish from Cold room operators that sell cartons of fish. The Chairman who was The Secretary to the Local Government, Mr. Akinwunmi Odeyemi who spoke on behalf of the Council Boss Hon. Famuyiwa, to the

protesters promised that their dissatisfaction will be conveyed to Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, the governor of Lagos State. "I want you to be calm and rest assured that your protest will be presented to our amiable Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu", Famuyiwa said. The protest was led by Mr. Olalekan Erinle, the Chairman of the Lagos State Fish Sellers Association,

who presented banners and a letter voicing their displeasure over the abrupt and exorbitant increase in fish pricing by cold room operators. Mr. Erinle explained that in just a day the price of fish was increased three times; citing an instance that a carton of fish that was sold for N37,000 the previous day now sells for N78,000, the cold room operators claimed that the sudden increase was due to the dollar exchange rate which he believed is not true. Some of the placards read "Reduce price of fish"; "Fish is too expensive"; and "No more fish."

Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Lawmaker Powers Street With Solar Lights

Kehinde Adeleye



The Lawmaker representing Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency at the green chamber of the National Assembly, Mr. Benjamin Adeyemi Olabinjo has lit up streets in Ifako-Ijaiye with Solar light. Our correspondence gathered that Balogun Road, Thompson Street and Soboyejo/Idowu

Awonusi, are part of the streets that have witnessed serene transformations at night due to the solar lights installation. The lawmaker in keeping with his pledges made during the election, has promised to be committed to improving the lives of those he represents

through a variety of initiatives that will benefit the Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency. He also said Street lights project shall be a continuous exercise. Street lighting is very essential tool in improving security as it will deter criminal activities, enhance quality of life, providing a safer and more pleasant environment at night.

Ifako-Ijaiye LG Inaugurates Committee of Procurement Planning, Others

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ifako-Ijaiye, Mr. Usman Akanbi Hamzat has inaugurated members of procurement planning committee, local tenders board committee and Evaluation committee for 2024 budget known as 'Budget of continuity'.

The Chairman announced this during a 3-Day Procurement Planning and Budget Retreat for Year 2024 fiscal year held at Abeokuta in Ogun state where top management and staff of the Council were present.

The Statutory Committees inaugurated were;
LOCAL TENDERS COMMITTEE (Chaired by Vice Chairman of the Local Government)
PROCUREMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE (Chaired by the Council Manager)
EVALUATION COMMITTEE (Chaired by the Council Treasurer)
 The purpose of the



Budget Retreat was to kick off regular planning for the fiscal year 2024 while accelerating practical measures to boost the local government's drive for revenue

production. Shortly before the Procurement Planning Retreat—whose theme was "Impact of Procurement Plan on the Local Government Administration and the importance of all Procurement Instruments/Documents"—began, the Council Chairman had already sworn in a few Statutory Committees. Earlier in his Opening

remarks, Prince Usman had commended the fruitful efforts and unflinching support enjoyed thus far from the Local Government Management and Staff, while imploring the participants to be more committed towards taking decisive steps in improving the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and economic fortunes of the Local Government!

Ojokoro LCDA To Arraign Waste Offenders

Kehinde Adeleye

The Chairman of Ojokoro Local Council Development Area, Mr. Hammed Idowu Tijani has frowned at the indiscriminate discard of refuse within the local Council and promised to arraign offenders. The Chairman announced this in response to the Lagos State Governor's remarks against careless trash disposal and the enormous progress the state has achieved in clearing out unlawful dumpsites. The Chairman said "We are always keying into the state agendas

most especially the vision of Mr. Governor, Babajide Olusola Sanwoolu and this on dumping of refuse is not an exception. Any form of indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the LCDA is again prohibited and offenders shall be dealt with". He further noted that the council from time had always cleared black spots in the LCDA. Noting that the exercise will continue and structures to apprehend all those dumping refuse illegally in the council area will be put in place to bring all offenders to book.





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NDLEA, Ibeju Lekki LG Join Forces to Combat Drug Menace

By Mohammed Adekola.



In an effort to combat the scourge of drug abuse and trafficking, officers and men of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) led by the acting Area Commander, Mr. John Achema and Ibeju -lekki Local Government have decided to stem drug related crime in the area. They resolved to fight the scourge when the NDLEA officers visited

the Council Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local Government, Engr. Abdullahi Sesan Olowa. Olowa said that the gathering stood as a pivotal stage for both parties to delve into strategies for enlightening the youth on the perils of drug misuse and trafficking. Yet, it held a more profound significance a symbolic pact to

champion the anti-drug abuse campaign, exemplified as the Chairman was ceremonially draped in the emblematic NDLEA shirt and crest. The menace of drug use and trading, with its alarming consequences, has posed a severe threat to the health, well-being, and productivity of the young population. Olowa emphasized his unwavering

commitment to combat for the visit, this pressing challenge. In his remarks, he emphasized the importance of collaborating with local authorities to create a drug-free society. He stated, "Our purpose is to partner with the local government to educate and protect our youth and society at large. We must work together to ensure a safer and healthier environment for our residents." Mr. John Achema also expressed his intentions

The partnership between NDLEA and Ibeju Lekki Local Government underscores the collective resolve to address the drug menace and safeguard the well-being of the community. This collaboration is a significant step towards creating awareness, providing support to those affected by drug-related issues, and ensuring a brighter future for the youth.

Fed. Lawmaker, Ayuba, Trains Residents How To Make Paint

By Edith Igbokwe

A Member of the Federal House of Representatives for Alimosho Constituency, Hon. Ganiyu Ayuba has reiterated his commitment to providing dividends of democracy for his people as he trained and empowered residents on paint-making skills. He advised beneficiaries to leverage on the opportunities abound in the training to prepare their entrepreneurship journey as self-employed persons in tandem with the Renewed Hope agenda

of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

The just concluded grand finale of a three-day skill acquisition training and empowerment program on paint-making for residents cut across the wards in Alimosho.

Ayuba re-echoed his support to all participants who received Certificates of Participation with grants to encourage them to develop a passion with keen interest.

He further admonished the participants to seize



the opportunity to create employment through skill acquisition training. "We do not need magic to change the world; we

possess all the power we need inside ourselves already; we have the power to imagine better things."

LSHA Public Account Committee Probes MDAs Financial Records

By Edith Igbokwe

A Member of the Lagos State House of Assembly representing Alimosho Constituency II, Hon. Kehinde Joseph, alongside other members of the Public Accounts Committee of the Lagos State House of Assembly has commenced deliberation, probe, and consideration of the 2022 Auditor General's Report for Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in the State. Joseph, who is the Chairman of the state Public Accounts Committee emphasized that the exercise is to ensure that the committee's statutory oversight is used as an antidote to financial recklessness by MDAs in the State.

He added that the consideration of the report aligns with the need for improved efficiency and best practices in the pursuit of the statutory objectives of the state Public Accounts Committee.

"The Assembly is poised to commence deliberations and considerations of the audited report of the State Auditor-General on the Accounts of the Lagos State Government for the year ended 2022, having been committed to the Committee for proper deliberations.

"This exercise will cover the period from January 1 to December 31, 2022, as well as the economic activities of all the Ministries, Departments, and Agencies of government in all sectors of the State Government.

"The committee will be inviting all heads of indicted MDAs for clarifications regarding the queries raised in the Auditor-General's report to enhance service delivery.

"The exercise will also ascertain the completion, accuracy, and reliability of the financial transactions within the sectors and confirm the level of



compliance with financial regulations, relevant legislations, and accounting standards, as well as reflect on each sector's financial performance and position.

"In addition, the committee would confirm the revenue and budget performances of all MDAs, capital expenditure, reconciliation of the

financial records with the Oracle system of the MDAs, and ascertain the project management and control systems of MDAs in Lagos State."

Joseph noted that the herculean task before the committee must be carried out for the State to move forward and to attain probity.

The Committee Chairman said the House of Assembly,

under the leadership of the Rt. Hon Mudashiru Obasa cannot afford to disappoint the electorate, especially as the present administration is positioned to build and improve on previous foundations laid for the development of the State.

"It is not a witch-hunt on any MDA but to ensure that the committee's statutory

oversight is used as an antidote to financial recklessness in the State. Let me assure you that reports of findings and recommendations will be compiled and forwarded to the House for deliberations after the exercise.

"It is my hope that the resolution on the outcome of this exercise will facilitate effective management of resources in the State."

Residents Laud Badagry LG Boss on Road Infrastructure

By Saheed Afolabi

The residents of Olorunda LCDA have heaped praises on their council chairman, Samson

Folorunsho for his intervention in renovating roads across the wards.

The council chairman renovated the

Anglican primary school pitch as sport lovers complained about the bad state of the pitch which has been renovated.

Also at Mosafejo

junction, the chairman renovated it due to his massive traffic of people and motorists in the area.

A Facebook user named,

Adewuyi Abiola said Onilude is working and God bless the LCDA.

Ilori Funke was impressed with the council's boss intervention in

repairing the roads.

Folorunsho has been embarking on road interventions across the LG and he has personally been monitoring it himself.

Badagry LG Boss Tasks Customs On Residents' Safety

By Saheed Afolabi

Badagry Local Government (LG)

chairman, Olusegun Onilude has charged the newly appointed comptroller of customs Seme Command, Timi Bomodi to prioritize the safety of the residents when officers of his command discharge their duties.

Onilude made it known to the new custom boss at Seme Border during his visit to the council secretariat.

The council boss said his administration have a cordial and robust relationship with the Nigeria Customs and commended the officers for doing a great job.

He however plead with Bomodi to address the numerous checkpoints on the Badagry road because it affects movement of people within the axis of the border.



"My administration has enjoyed a robust and cordial working relationship with men of the Nigerian customs.

"A relationship I assure you, we will continue

to have. I also commend your men for the yeoman's job they are doing but then I want you to do something about the numerous checkpoints on our road. "That alone is affecting

the ease of trade and movement of people within this corridor. I also want to bring to your attention the modus operandi of your men when they have

Intel about smuggled goods in residential areas. Lives and properties must not be endangered while they're discharging their duties.

"Perhaps we can

embark on organizing an enlightenment forum with stakeholders so that we can collectively enlighten our people on some grey areas of your operation."



General Mobolaji Johnson

Johnson was born to the family of Joshua Motola Johnson and his wife, Gbemisola Johnson (née Dudley-Coker). His father was of Lagos origin and was a member of the Royal West African Frontier Force during World War II. Johnson had five other siblings including his brother, Femi Johnson, founder of Femi Johnson and Company of Ibadan.

Mobolaji Johnson started his education at Reagean Memorial Baptist School, Yaba, Methodist School in 1941. He then attended Hussey College, Warri, 1954. In 1955, he moved to Methodist Boys High School Lagos, the School his father attended, where he finished his secondary education in 1957. While in MBHS, Lagos, Mobolaji was a good all-round sports man. In 1959 Mobolaji attended the Officer Cadet Training School in Ghana. Mobolaji Johnson also attended the Mons Officer Cadet School in Aldershot and the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, United Kingdom, between 1960 and 1961.

Military career

Zaria Military Depot, 1958–1959.

United Nations Peace Keeping Troops, Congo

He was promoted a 2nd Lieutenant, Nigeria Army, 1961.

Lieutenant, 1962, Captain, October 1962.

Appointed Deputy Commander, Federal Guards, 1964.

Commander, Federal Guards, 1964.

Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster-General Headquarters, 2nd Brigade, Apapa, Lagos, 1964.

Major, February 1966;

Second in command, 4th Battalion, Ibadan.

Station Commander, Benin, Midwest (old Bendel



State).

At the end of the Biafra War, Johnson was amongst the federal delegates at the end of the war ceremony. In 1966, after the abortive coup d'etat that put paid to the first Nigerian civilian administration, he became Military Administrator of Lagos State. In 1967 he became the First Governor of Lagos State. Johnson's tenure as Military Governor of Lagos State saw the building of major infrastructures in Lagos State.

Governor

Johnson was first appointed by Aguiyi-Ironsi as the administrator of the former federal territory of Lagos in 1966. Ironsi was the head of state and wanted someone from Lagos to handle some of the problems of the federal territory.[5] In May 1967, Lagos State was created and Johnson became the first governor of Lagos; the

state was now composed of the old Federal Territory of Victoria Island, Ikoyi and Lagos Island plus the additions of the Epe, Badagry, Ikorodu and Ikeja divisions. He was involved in developing the civil service in Lagos State. Johnson was initially assisted in running the state with help from some key civil servants such as Administrative Secretary, Adeymi-Bero, Legal Secretary, Alh. I. O Agoro, Finance Secretary, F.C.O Coker,[6] and the acting secretary to the Military Government, Howson Wright and waited until April 1968 before appointing his commissioners.

Building Lagos

60.7-kilometre international express road (Lagos–Badagry Expressway) linking Nigeria with the neighbouring countries Benin, Ghana and Togo.[7]

Toikin Bridge to link Epe to Ikorodu

Eko Bridge

Third Mainland Bridge

A network of roads and bridges that constitutes what is modern day Lagos

Reclamation of the Bar Beach shoreline.

Another coup ushered in a new military government in 1975. A new administration came in, under an anti-corruption banner.

In 1975 at the inception of the General Murtala Mohammed administration Johnson was one of the two state Governors (along with Brigadier General Oluwole Rotimi) found not guilty of corruption by the three-man panel commissioned to investigate the various allegations of corruption amongst the State Governors.

General Johnson retired from the Nigerian Army in 1975 and went into private business. He had four

children, three sons and a daughter.

Johnson was the Chairman of Nigerian Conservation Foundation.

He became a Director of construction giant Julius Berger Nigeria in 1979 and its chairman in 1996, a post he held until 2009.

Johnson was the Chairman Executive Council of Lagos State University Development Foundation.

He was the chairman of the Board of Trustees of Methodist Boys' High School, Lagos Old Boys' National Association. He was honoured with the position because he was a distinguished Old Boy who was of great assistance to his alma mater

Mobolaji Johnson died on October 30, 2019, at the age of 83 in his home. His death was announced by his son, Deji Johnson. Deji has 3 children himself, two daughters and a son.

Source: Wikipedia

Lagos based defender, Kehinde Akinwande is delighted to have joined KFF Apolonia from Nigeria Women Football League (NWFL) Premiership side, Robo Queens.

Akinwande described her move to Apolonia as a positive step in her career after craving for a new challenge for some years.

The Super Falcons defender said, she's glad to have another experience of football and learn more about the game under a different atmosphere. My move to FK Apolonia is a right step at the right time for me because I've been craving for a new challenge elsewhere," she said.

Akinwande Excited To Join KFF Apolonia

"I'm super excited to sign for a club in Europe because I need to have a new experience in football and learn new things about football under a new atmosphere."

The crunchy defender targets the league title at her new club and appreciated her former club, Robo Queens for their contribution to her career.

"My goal is to give my best for the team and help the team to win the league title and also achieve some

milestones with FK APOLONIA.

"Robo Queens made me who I am today. The team has a great impact in my footballing career. I was forged at the club into what people are seeing today. Thanks to the club's chairman/Head Coach, coaching crew, my team mates and the super fans."

Akinwande is in line to make her debut for third place Apolonia against Teuta on Sunday, November 12.



Flexy Coach Sad Over Heavy Loss To Eletu

The head coach of Flexy Soccer FA, Washington Egor is bitterly sad with the heavy loss incurred by his side against Prince Kazeem Eletu at Mobolaji Johnson Arena, Onikan.

Prince Kazeem Eletu whitewashed Flexy Soccer 10-1.

Egor expresses disappointment over the result and tagged it as his worst ever defeat in his career. He however lauded their opponents for being mobile and solid.

The gaffer said his lads lacked good finishing skills with poor recovery rate which further compounded their heavy loss in the game.

"It was a poor outing for us because my team had never conceded wide margin result like this in my coaching career. We met a solid team who are mobile

on the ball and compact in the midfield," he said.

"My boys gave their best but I must say that our best is not enough. My boys lacked finishing and their recovery on the ball was not too good. We quickly lose possession to our opponents which contributed to our disastrous outing."

The tactician congratulated the Eletu side and vows to correct his side impending mistakes.

"Having said this, I think my boys have learned a lot from this game and we will go back home to correct our mistakes before our next friendly match. I congratulate Eletu for this impressive performance and I believe that they are academy that other teams can learn from in term of their pattern of play and approach to the game."



Ijegan Championship Cup: 16 Teams Reach Knockout Stage

Ijegan Joint CDA football competition tagged 'Ijegan Championship Cup' has reached the round of 16 at the Ijegan prayingfield, Alimosho, Lagos.

The competition which started some weeks ago is being organised by Ijegan Joint CDA communities as part of its effort to use football

in promoting peace, unity among all the youths in Ijegan and its environs.

In the fixtures released by the organisers, five matches would hold on Saturday as Ajagun face Ajagun central, Ifedapo battle Afurugbin, Irede tackle Ifelodu as Isokan confront Olorunsogo, while prayingfield

tackle Abanise football team.

A member of the organising committee, Engineer Isreal Adeshina urged the teams not to see the tournament as a do or die affairs and urged them to use the tournament to promote peace, unity and friendliness among the communities in Ijegan.

"The competition has entered the crucial stage and we want the teams involved to shun soccer violence during and after their game. It has been a hitch free tourney since we started and I want it to continue like that. On behalf of the committee, we wish all the teams best of luck in their outings," he said.



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